



# City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

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**August 2014**

Dear Friends:

Our community has observed that time-less annual ritual: the first day of school. It's a time when parents breathe a sigh of relief and students and teachers anticipate new beginnings and new challenges.

Unfortunately, the beginning of school is also a time when children are at increased risk of transportation related injuries from pedestrian, bicycle, school bus, and motor vehicle crashes because there are many more children on the road each morning and afternoon and many drivers' patterns change.

Shorter daylight hours make it especially difficult to see young pedestrians and bicyclists. So as schools open their doors, it's time for everyone – motorists, parents, educators, and students – to improve their traffic safety practices.

The following tips can help make this a safe and happy school year for the whole community.

### **Tips for Motorists**

- When a school bus or children are present slow down and proceed with caution, obeying all traffic laws and speed limits.
- Always stop for a school bus that has stopped to load or unload passengers. Red flashing lights and an extended stop arm tell you the school bus is stopped to load or unload children. Under certain conditions State Law requires you to stop.
- If you are on a two-lane roadway, you must stop.
- If you are on a roadway that has two or more travel lanes traveling in each direction and you are traveling the same direction as the bus, you must stop.
- If you are on a roadway that has at least two or more travel lanes traveling in each direction and you are approaching, meeting the bus, you do not have to stop, merely proceed with caution.



## Ward 5 News

- Be alert and ready to stop. Watch for children walking in the street, especially where there are no sidewalks. Watch for children playing and gathering near bus stops. Watch for children arriving late for the bus, who may dart into the street without looking for traffic. When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch for children walking or biking to school.
- When driving in neighborhoods or school zones, watch for young people who may be in a hurry to get to school and may not be thinking about getting there safely.

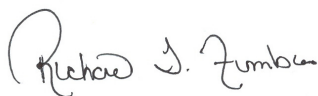
### Tips for Parents or Guardians

- Help your children learn and practice the safety rules for walking, bicycling, or riding in a passenger car, school bus or transit bus.
- Supervise young children as they are walking or biking to school or as they wait at the school bus stop.
- Be a good role model, especially when you are with your kids. Always buckle up in the car, always wear a helmet when biking, and always follow pedestrian safety rules.

### Tips for Students

- Always buckle up when you're riding in a car.
- Always ride in the back seat. It's the safest place for young people.
- Always wear a helmet and follow traffic safety rules when riding your bike.
- If you ride a school bus, learn and practice the safety rules for waiting at the bus stop, getting on and off the bus, and riding the bus.
- If you walk to school, learn and practice the safety rules for pedestrians. Always cross at cross walks, obey all traffic signs, traffic lights and safety patrol instructions.
- Be a good role model for your younger brothers and sisters and friends, and help them learn and practice the safety rules.

Thank you,



Richard Fimbres  
Your Councilmember

### Purcell Tire and Auto Service Center Opens

Purcell Tire & Service Center has opened its new commercial/retail center at 1515 E. Ajo Way. This Tucson facility features state of the art equipment with 6 retail bays and 3 drive-through commercial bays. There is easy access off Interstate 10 and has a large circular drive that makes it extremely easy for large trucks to enter and exit the service center.



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The facility is equipped to do heavy-duty alignments on commercial vehicles with the latest Hunter Engineering equipment. It offers Roadside tire service to fleets 24/7. The expanded warehouse has allowed Purcell to have on hand multiple tire lines and sizes from Goodyear, Dunlap, Hancoock, Michelin, Kelly, Yoyo, and other nationally recognized quality brands.

This Purcell Tire & Service Center is the newest and largest truck tire center serving all of Southern Arizona, New Mexico and Mexico. Purcell Tire & Service Center has built a reputation of trust, providing quality vehicle maintenance and diagnostic services along with offering an extensive selection of top tire brands for retail and commercial vehicles.

### South Side Park Renamed to Honor Fallen Soldier

*Article courtesy of Tucson Sentinel*

A park near Sunnyside High School will be renamed to honor a fallen graduate. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Martin R. Barreras, who died two weeks ago after being wounded in Afghanistan, will be remembered at the park following a unanimous vote of the Sunnyside Governing Board on Tuesday.

The park, run jointly by the Sunnyside Unified School District and the City of Tucson, will be renamed CSM Martin R. Barreras "Gunny" Park. A staff sergeant in the Arizona Army National Guard, Staff Sergeant Marcos Moreno, pushed for officials to rename the park, near South Campbell Avenue and East Drexel Road. Moreno, who did not know Barreras personally, told SUSD board members that the slain soldier was a hero and said they were "brothers in arms." Barreras should be remembered every day by those using the park, Moreno said, listing the awards and decorations the Marine veteran and Army Ranger received.



Barreras died May 13th at an army hospital in San Antonio, Texas, the result of wounds suffered when his unit came under fire in Herat Province in Afghanistan. Barreras graduated from Sunnyside High School in 1982 and joined the Marines, where he served until he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1988, where he served as a Ranger for 22 years.

Nicknamed "Gunny" for his time as a Marine, Barreras was known for his leadership and tenacity, said Col. Christopher Vanek, commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment. Vanek spoke of Barreras' role in the 2003 rescue of Pvt. Jessica Lynch, a U.S. Army soldier who was captured during the early days of the Iraq War. Barreras, Vanek said, volunteered for the additional duty of retrieving the bodies of nine other Americans and two Iraqis who were buried in a soccer field near the hospital where Lynch was rescued.

"When he walked into a room, he set the tone" said brother Dave Barreras at the service. "The last time I saw him, he told me it was going to be his last deployment," said Dave Barreras during the service. "He was right. He may have been wounded on foreign ground, but he died at home." "In the end, he was a hero," he said. "Not because he was in uniform, but because of the man he was."



## City News

### Interim City Manager

The City of Tucson administration has welcomed a new leader as Assistant City Manager, Martha Durkin, was appointed by Mayor and Council recently as the interim replacement for Richard Miranda, whose retirement became effective July 31st. "I am honored to serve as Interim City Manager and build upon the City's mission to provide excellent service delivery," Durkin stated. "This is a time of great synergy between our organization and the community as we all work toward a more vibrant and prosperous Tucson." Durkin is the first woman to hold the leadership post, and she will serve as Interim City Manager until a permanent Manager is hired by Mayor and Council. Durkin has worked in local government since 1984. I want to congratulate Martha on her new position leading our city government.



### Sun Link Modern Streetcar

According to a new Downtown Tucson Partnership report, the economic impact of the Sun Link Tucson Streetcar continues to grow. Even though the streetcar began passenger service began just last month, economic development along the 3.9-mile route has been heavy since voters approved the streetcar and RTA plan back in 2006. The latest estimate from the Downtown Tucson Partnership quantifies more than \$900 million in public and private investment along the line from west of Interstate-10, downtown, 4th Avenue and the University of Arizona.

Additionally, Fast Lane, the official blog of the U.S. Department of Transportation, says, "Sun Link is a good example of modern streetcar services that are bringing a new transportation option to communities across the country – or in some cases, bringing back an old one." The blog mentions that nearly 100,000 people live and work within a quarter-mile of the 3.9-mile Sun Link route which has helped to attract millions in public and private investment along the corridor since the service was announced, including housing, restaurants, offices, and retail.



The Arizona APWA has also named the Sun Link Tucson Streetcar the Public Works Project of the Year at its annual conference that was held in Tucson. The \$196 million project, co-managed by the City of Tucson and the Regional Transportation Authority, launched service last month with more than 60,000 people riding the streetcar during three days of free rides. The Arizona Chapter of the APWA cited key successes of the streetcar project, including a high level of cooperation among all partners, the creation of more than 500 construction-related jobs, installation of \$19 million in needed infrastructure improvements, extensive outreach to the public and businesses along the route, emphasis on American jobs and materials for the project, and collaboration among various populations and neighborhoods along the streetcar route. The project was recognized for the same honor in April by the Southern Arizona APWA Branch.

## City News

### Sun Tran and Teamsters Announce New Contract

Sun Tran and Teamsters Local 104 union members have agreed to a new one-year contract, averting transit disruption. The new contract, which stayed within the adopted 2015 budget, was ratified with a union vote of 292 to 93 in favor of the \$1 million plan, which gives a one-time wage adjustment for all bargaining unit employees who have been employed longer than six months and are not in the top-rate wage level. Both parties acknowledged the importance of Sun Tran bus service to the community. On an average weekday, Sun Tran provides about 60,000 passenger trips.



### SunGO Cards Accepted on Both Sun Link Streetcar and Sun Tran Buses

The SunGO card is the best way to pay fares when riding public transit in Tucson. The card works on both the Sun Tran bus system and the Sun Link Tucson Streetcar. A SunGO card with unlimited rides for a month is just \$42. If you're an occasional rider, you can load the SunGO card with a cash value to pay the \$1.50 one-way fares whenever you use transit. In addition, there are many discounts available for students, low-income residents, seniors and others. If you ride the streetcar, you must have a SunGO card, or purchase a day pass with cash or a credit card from a vending machine at the stop. Cash is not accepted on the streetcar.



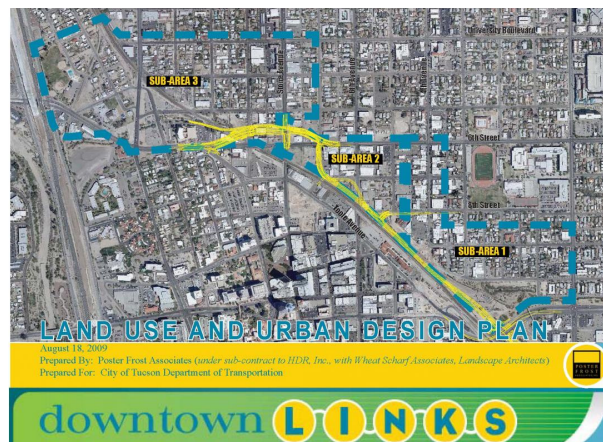
University of Arizona faculty, staff, and students will be able to ride the streetcar for free for 30 days beginning August 15, if they sign up for a special U-pass (link below). The City of Tucson has a video (link below) that tells you everything you need to know about how to ride the streetcar.

SunGO fares and passes: <http://bit.ly/1tiUhh>

UA passes: <http://bit.ly/UGcmhY>

### Downtown Links Project

The City of Tucson and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) have a website (linked below) to give citizens information and updates on one of the largest transportation projects in Tucson. The \$76 million project will result in a four-lane roadway north of the Union Pacific Railroad that will link Barraza-Aviation Parkway and Interstate 10, Broadway Boulevard with 4th Avenue, and downtown with the neighborhoods to the north. Downtown Links also will provide alter-



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nate access to downtown, new and safer underpasses and railroad crossings, and improved sidewalks and bike paths.

Downtown Links info: <http://bit.ly/1maT9LU>

### Welcome to our Great City!

In a unanimous vote, the Mayor and Tucson City Council adopted the final ordinance for the annexation of Century Park Marketplace. The annexation includes approximately 163 acres at the intersection of Kolb and Valencia Roads. The site has the potential for development of 1.3 million square feet of retail space, which would generate construction sales tax, retail sales tax, and impact fees.

"Annexation is a great opportunity for the City of Tucson, because it allows the City to collect additional sales tax, control growth, and capture more state-shared revenue," stated Annexation Project Manager Mike Czechowski.

### Sufficient Water Supply Through 2050

While Tucson Water Director Alan Forrest says the city has enough water to meet demands for the next 36 years, he also says it's critical to start planning for the future beyond that point. In a guest opinion in the Arizona Daily Star, Forrest says "To ensure longer-term supply goals, and to address the threat of intermittent shortages on the Colorado River, we must continue to develop additional renewable water supplies." One of those resources is expanding the use of recycled purified water to integrate into the drinking water system, similar to the way Tucson Water currently blends Colorado River with potable water by recharging it into the ground. "Additional purification processes will be included to ensure the water being delivered to our customers meets all drinking-water standards," Forrest states.



### Tucson Receives Perfect Sustainability Score

Tucson is the fifth city in the United States to earn four out of five stars from the STAR Communities Rating System for leadership in sustainability. In the Community Water Systems category of the STAR rating, Tucson received a perfect score. Stand out initiatives cited by STAR (Sustainability Tools for Assessing & Rating Communities) include drought preparedness, rainwater harvesting rebates, water quality initiatives, and the Sweetwater Wetlands. The Sweetwater Wetlands is a key facet of Tucson Water's reclaimed water system, where treated wastewater is filtered through recharge basins, replenishing the local aquifer. The reclaimed wastewater is then distributed for reuse at Tucson's golf courses, parks, and schools. In addition, the wetlands are an urban wildlife habitat that the public can visit seven days a week. Congratulations to City staff who helped to make this happen.



Read Tucson's STAR report: <http://bit.ly/1uodJl5>



## City News

### Tucson Wins Latest Yet Another Election Battle Against State

Tucson, Phoenix and other cities can hold their elections as they have setting the date and method used, thanks to the Arizona Appellate Court. The appellate court ruling says the State of Arizona can't make Tucson, Phoenix and other cities move their municipal elections to even-numbered years. Monday's ruling by the Arizona Court of Appeals upholds a trial judge's ruling that the 2012 law improperly intrudes on the constitutional authority of charter cities. The State had appealed a 2013 ruling by Judge James Marner of Pima County Superior Court.



### City of Tucson Department of Procurement Wins National Award

The City of Tucson's Department of Procurement recently was awarded the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award (AEP) for 2014. The award, from the National Procurement Institute, recognizes innovation, professionalism, e-procurement, productivity, and leadership attributes. The City of Tucson is one of only 14 government agencies in Arizona - and one of 68 cities in the United States - to receive the award. The City is one of only six agencies to receive the AEP award for all 19 years since its inception. Under the leadership of Director Marcheta Gillespie, Tucson's Department of Procurement consistently wins awards for its work. Congratulations to Marcheta and the Procurement Department staff for their hard work and this prestigious honor.

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## Announcements

### Elephant Calf Born at Reid Park Zoo

Last week the Reid Park Zoo announced that Semba, a 24-year old African Elephant, successfully delivered a female calf. Both mother and calf appear to be doing well, but are spending quiet time in the Click Family Elephant Care Center under the watchful eyes of the elephant team. This is Semba's third calf, but the first elephant ever born at Reid Park Zoo.



Keepers and trained volunteers had been observing Semba's moves around-the-clock since early July. Throughout the day on August 20, Semba was moving more slowly than usual, but she continued to eat and interact with the rest of the herd. At approximately 10:35pm, in the quiet of her normal evening surroundings and under the watchful eye of her Keepers, she began to exhibit signs of active labor including laying down, walking backwards, and extending her tail. She gave birth very soon after. She progressed quickly and delivered without any intervention from the staff. The calf hit the ground at exactly 10:55pm, took her first breath immediately, stood up within minutes, and began to nurse within the hour. The calf has not been named but weighs 245 pounds.

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"We are beyond excited," states Fred Gray, Director of Parks and Recreation. "I could not be more proud of our staff for their hard work and preparation for this important day. Our top priority is the health of Semba and her calf - and I'm pleased to hear they are both doing well. The City is committed to the future of African elephants, and leading the field of elephant care with colleagues. This is a fitting gift to the Tucson community on our 239th birthday."

The first 48-72 hours following the birth were the most essential for Semba and her calf to form a strong physical and emotional bond. Absolutely no visitors or non-essential staff members were being admitted to the Elephant Care Center during that time. Once the calf is nursing regularly and following Semba instinctually, additional areas of the holding facility will be opened for them to explore. Keepers will also be watching to make sure Semba is eating, drinking, and recovering normally from the physical stresses of labor. As the calf gains strength, she will be introduced to the rest of the herd.

Although Semba and the unnamed calf are not currently on exhibit, they may be viewable on the Zoo Cams between the hours of 10am-2pm. The rest of the herd members will remain on exhibit intermittently throughout the day.

### **Traffic Alert: Southbound 4th Avenue Underpass Closure**

With the return of University of Arizona students and the anticipation of heavy traffic in the downtown area, the City of Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT) is not permitting southbound traffic through the 4th Avenue Underpass at 9th Street this weekend, from 7 p.m. - 2 a.m. During the temporary closure, which took effect last night, the Sun Link Streetcar and bicyclists will be allowed to use the southbound travel lane through the underpass, and pedestrians will be allowed to use the sidewalk. TDOT staff recently adjusted the timing of the traffic signals to allow for better traffic flow through the busy Congress/4th/Toole intersection, and engineers will continue to evaluate and monitor travel patterns this weekend.



According to TDOT, they are implementing this temporary closure to alleviate traffic congestion related to the start of the semester at the University of Arizona and to ensure easier access for pedestrians, Sun Link riders, and bicyclists to the downtown area. The public is urged to use caution and to be aware of electronic message boards along Fourth Avenue highlighting travel restrictions.

### **New Program Aims to Boost Homeownership**

A new program is offering \$5.5 million to increase homeownership and strengthen neighborhoods in Tucson. Wells Fargo, NeighborWorks America®, the Primavera Foundation, Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, and South Tucson Mayor Paul Diaz announced the Tucson NeighborhoodLIFT® program yesterday. Down payment assistance of \$15,000 will be available for eligible homebuyers with annual incomes that do not exceed 120 per-





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cent of the Tucson area median income – about \$68,400 for a family of four – with income maximums varying depending on family size and type of loan. Among other things, potential buyers must complete an eight-hour homebuyer education session with The Primavera Foundation or another HUD-approved counseling agency. “This program can help qualifying homebuyers from any approved lender,” said Mayor Rothschild. “I’m extremely grateful to Wells Fargo for their generous donation of stabilization funds. That’s good corporate citizenship.” Participants must commit to live in the home for five years and qualify for a first mortgage. The Tucson NeighborhoodLIFT® program begins with a free homebuyer event Sept. 5-6, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., at the Tucson Convention Center. Registration is required at the link below.

Tucson Wells Fargo NeighborhoodLIFT® program information and registration: <http://bit.ly/1sJPPMV>

### Pima County Approves Plan to Trap, Sterilize, Release Feral Cats

With the intention of reducing the number of feral cats, the Pima County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a plan to capture, sterilize, vaccinate and release cats who live in the wild. The \$1.5 million Community Cats program is a partnership between the Pima Animal Care Center, the Best Friends Animal Society, and PetSmart Charities. The goal is to sterilize 5,000 cats in each of the next three years. Animal-care workers want to decrease the euthanasia rate of cats by about 30 percent. Pima County will contribute \$600,000 to pay for the spay and neuter surgeries.



### Pima County Adult Detention Center General Library

The Pima County Adult Detention Center (PCADC) General Library is reporting a shortage of reading materials for the inmate population and is seeking help.

Why send books and other reading materials to detainees? Reading Materials help inmates expand their educational, vocational and personal development. Reading aids them in avoiding boredom and introduces ways of utilizing their minds for more constructive and positive avenues, thus reducing the potential to recidivate after their release.

To be able to distribute to our inmate population, the PCADC General Library relies solely on donations of books and other reading materials from the community.

In years past, organizations such as the Pima County Re-entry Coalition, Friends of the Pima County Library and the Pima County Faith-Based Programs have helped the PCADC General Library through generous book donations. Our appreciation cannot be expressed by a simple thank you, the value of the book donations cannot be measured, nor can it be overlooked.



## **Congratulations and Thank You!**

Once again, the call for books is going out to the entire community. Because of wear and tear, there is a need to replenish our inventory of paperback books.

Please donate your used or new paperback books for the PCADC General Library. Books can be dropped off at the PCADC (1270 W. Silverlake Road) (Bin labeled General Library Book Donations).

### **Tucson Police Foundation Seeking 'Unsung Hero' Nominees**

Do you know a Tucson Police officer, civilian, or volunteer with the department who has taken that extra step to help you or others? If so, please consider nominating that person for an "Unsung Hero" award (link below). Past recipients of the awards traditionally have been nominated by Tucson Police Department members. This year, the Foundation decided to open the nominations to the public. The deadline to submit a nomination is Sept. 30, and the award ceremonies will be held Jan. 24, 2015.



Nomination form for Unsung Hero awards - <http://l.usa.gov/l siejGv>

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## **Congratulations and Thank You!**

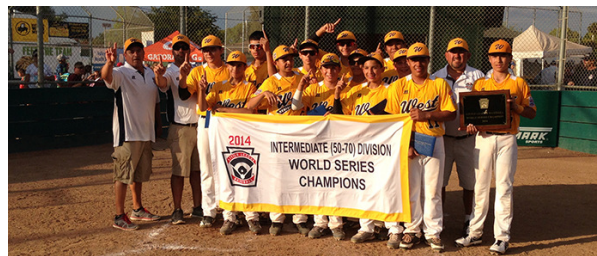
### **Happy 36th Anniversary!**

On August 4th my wife, Mary, and I celebrated our 36th Wedding Anniversary. I want to thank my beautiful wife Mary for sharing her life with me. May our good Lord give us another great 36 happy and healthy years! I have been truly blessed with a loving wife, two great sons and a great extended family!



### **Congrats to the Nogales Intermediate Little League Team**

Southern Arizona is now home to a team of baseball champions. The Nogales Intermediate Little League team came home crowned Little League World Series Champs in California. The team beat Puerto Rico 11 to 4.



## Congratulations and Thank You!

### Congrats to the

#### Sunnyside Juniors Softball Team

The Sunnyside Softball Juniors made it to the semifinals of the Junior League Softball World Series. Although our defending champs did not make it to the finals, they have made us all proud in their strong effort to defend their crown!



#### Project PPEP 47th Anniversary

Project PPEP, Inc. recently celebrated their 47th Anniversary. In 1967, PPEP, Inc. was founded by Dr. John David Arnold aboard a 1957 Chevy bus named "La Tortuga (tortoise)" with a \$19,000 grant from the Tucson Committee for Economic Opportunity. Its mission to "improve the quality of rural life." Four decades later PPEP remains dedicated to carrying out the dreams of its first Bracero migrant farm workers students for a better way of life. Si Se Pudo. Yes We Can. Congratulations to PPEP Inc., and Dr. Arnold and his staff for their success. For more information, go online to [ppep.org](http://ppep.org).



#### Los Changuitos Feos 50th Anniversary

On Friday, August 22, Los Changuitos Feos commemorated their 50th Anniversary of music and entertainment. Widely regarded as the first youth mariachi group, and the seed to the whole youth mariachi movement in the United States. Inheritors of a five decade legacy of musicianship and dedication, today's Changuitos play for college scholarship money. Over \$480,000 in grants have transformed former Changuitos into college graduates in law, medicine, science, education and technology. For more information go online to [loschanguitosfeos.org](http://loschanguitosfeos.org).

#### Farwell Mr. J.L. "Pepe" Mendoza

Mr. J.L. "Pepe" Mendoza has retired from the VA Hospital in Tucson. Pepe served the veterans hospitalized, those using the medical facilities and our community, in his role as the head of the Public Information Office. The Ward 5 office has worked with Pepe over the years on events for our service men and women, as well as coordinating the get well card's for those hospitalized.



## Frequently Used Phone Numbers

### **Emergency Services**

Tucson Police Department or Tucson Fire Department  
DIAL 911

### **Permits**

Planning and Development Services Department  
791-5550

### **Housing Assistance**

City of Tucson Community Services Department  
791-4739

### **Tucson Convention Center**

791-4101

### **Code Enforcement & Graffiti Removal**

792-CITY (2489)

### **Trash Pick Up & Environmental Services**

City of Tucson Environmental Services Department  
791-3171

### **Transportation & Street Maintenance**

Tucson Department of Transportation  
791-3154

### **Tucson Water Department**

Billing - 791-3242  
Public Information - 791-4331

### **ParkWise**

791-5071

### **Pima Animal Care**

243-5900



Community Food Bank

**Help those who are in need.  
Give to the Community Food Bank.  
For more information call: 520-622-0525**

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